Kayla Paden

Period 2

Othello Excuse

7 January 2010

To the Duke of Venice,

I am writing to shed some light the very unfortunate tragedy of Lady Emilia. My account of the bloody detail is from my own eyes and not with any influence of others. I can a sure you that my testament is a faithful narrative of my entire dealings with Lady Emilia and her companions in question.

I arrived in Cyprus shortly after the arrival of the Moor. Like the other officers under the command of the Moor, I was traveling because of the oncoming threat from the Turks. Upon my arrival I was fortunate to receive an invitation from the Moor’s ancient, Iago. I went directly to the castle and was greeted by Lady Emilia herself. Her manner was very pleasing, and she seemed to be a person of good character. At the time I concluded her no more than a humble, devoted servant of the Moor. I understand that at the time of my arrival the Moor had just taken a wife and that Lady Emilia was to be her lady’s maid. Whether or not this transaction directly led to the misfortune of them both methinks not. For as I endured my stay, I could not help but notice the relationship between the two ladies was quite cordial and friendly. Many a times I was in their presence and could see nothing but a mutual relationship. The accounts I have heard of Lady Emilia being a mistress to the Moor seem very unlikely, since there was hardly a moment where I saw the two ladies apart. Furthermore, upon my first night at Cyprus I was invited to dine with the Lady Emilia, Iago, Lady Desdemona, and the Moor. At dinner, I noticed a strange interaction between the Moor and Iago. The Moor seemed very distressed, and I took the cause to be a matter of state. Later the next day, I was a walking when I met Lady Desdemona, the Moor, and Lady Emilia. The ladies were trying to cure the Moor’s headache with a handkerchief. When the Moor left, the handkerchief fell to the ground, and was hastily picked up by Lady Emilia (III iii). At the time I thought nothing of the gesture. Perhaps Lady Emilia would return the handkerchief to Lady Desdemona. A day later, I spied the Moor looking in on a conversation between Iago and Cassio. When Cassio pulled out the handkerchief, I recognized the pattern immediately (IV i). The Moor saw the handkerchief too, and the sight sent him to a fit of frenzy. I began to try to piece together the event that I had seen. At dinner, I questioned Lady Emilia about the importance of the handkerchief. She gave very general answers surrounding the relationship of the Moor and the fair Desdemona. Thinking Lady Emilia had no solid connection to the handkerchief, I went to bed. However, that night I was awoken to the awful screeches of someone calling out murder. I quickly went to the source of the scream and found Lady Emilia in the Moor’s bedchamber. The cold Desdemona was on the bed and the Moor was standing sternly in the shadows. I was joined by Montanto, and Iago. Then Lady Emilia began to confess the entire mess and reveal her husband’s secrets (V ii). She began by confessing to taking the sacred handkerchief and giving it to her husband. Lady Emilia declared that at the time she had given her husband the handkerchief, she did not think her husband wanted the handkerchief for an act of evil, but to duplicate the pattern. I do earnestly believe lady Emilia’s word stands true. I observed the woman for days, and she and Lady Desdemona had a genuine friendship. For the part about the deceitful husband, methinks the lady is also accurate. Every moment I observed Iago I was left with a feeling of sincere friendship. He was dubbed honest and good natured from all acquaintances, and there was never cry of evil among any of his dealings with me. Even I was shocked to learn of all the evil Iago was capable of. Looking back now I would say that some encounters with Iago were out of sorts, but not many during my stay. As for Lady Emilia being a mastermind in the scheme against the Moor, methinks not. Lady Emilia did not at any time prove to be capable of any such action. As for the handkerchief incident I believe Emilia’s action should be dismissed, since the lady was only following her husband’s wishes. I believe she thought of him with good intentions and had a kind heart. Please excuse her actions from Iago’s massacre, for her deed was so great, but her heart was in the right place. I ask that you take these words, sir, as truthful and honest. Not a word of decent flows through my pen.

Sincerely,

Gratino